

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 27, 2006. Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 14, 16 to 20, 23 to 29, 31 and 35 to 39 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16, 31 and 37 to 39 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 14, 16 to 20, 23 to 29, 31 and 35 to 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0001495 (Mochizuki). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns issuing reference information corresponding to held print data to a plurality of printing apparatuses. In one embodiment of the invention, the reference information is sent to the plural printers, and then the print data is sent to the printer which first requested to acquire the relevant print data. Therefore, a printing apparatus in accordance with the present invention which can rapidly start a print process can be precisely selected as it was the apparatus which responded first. In this manner, in a system in accordance with the present invention, it is possible to easily select the printer which can start the print process immediately.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes a holding unit adapted to hold print data; an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by the holding unit, to both of a first printing apparatus and a second printing apparatus; a first receiving unit adapted to receive an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the first printing apparatus on the basis of the reference information; a first transmission unit adapted to transmit the print data to the first printing

apparatus in response to the acquisition request received by the first receiving unit; a judgment unit adapted to judge whether or not the transmission of the print data by the first transmission unit succeeded; a second receiving unit adapted to receive an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from the second printing apparatus on the basis of the reference information; and a second transmission unit adapted to not transmit the data to the second printing apparatus in response to the acquisition request transmitted from the second printing apparatus in a case where it is judged by the judgment unit that the transmission of the print data succeeded, and adapted to transmit the data to the second printing apparatus in response to the acquisition request transmitted from the second printing apparatus in a case where it is not judged by the judgment unit that the transmission of the print data succeeded.

In contrast, Mochizuki discloses automatically selecting a print enabled printer for print without the requester host being conscious of the actual printer, (paragraph 0002 of Mochizuki). While Mochizuki discloses using the printer that issues a retrieval response packet to the host most rapidly, (paragraph 0045 of Mochizuki), Mochizuki is silent on judging whether or not the transmission of print data by a first transmission unit succeeded. Moreover, Mochizuki is silent on not transmitting the data to a second printing apparatus in a case where it is judged that the transmission of the print data succeeded, and transmitting the data to the second printing apparatus in a case where it is not judged that the transmission of the print data succeeded. Thus, Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 1.

Amended independent Claims 16 and 31 are a method and computer readable storage medium corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant

submits that Claims 1, 16, and 31 are now in condition for Allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 37 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes a holding unit adapted to hold print data; an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by the holding unit to a plurality of printing apparatuses; a receiving unit adapted to receive an acquisition request of the print data transmitted from any of the plurality of printing apparatuses based on the reference information; a judging unit adapted to judge whether or not the acquisition request received by the receiving unit is the acquisition request first received in regard to the print data; and a transmission control unit adapted to transmit the print data to the printing apparatus which transmitted the acquisition request in a case where it is judged by said judging unit that the received acquisition request is the first-received acquisition request or in a case where it is not judged by said judging unit that the received acquisition request is the first-received acquisition request and transmission of the print data to another printing apparatus failed, and not to transmit the print data to the printing apparatus which transmitted the acquisition request in a case where it is not judged by said judging unit that the received acquisition request is the first-received acquisition request and transmission of the print data to another printing apparatus has been completed.

In contrast, Mochizuki discloses automatically selecting a print enabled printer for print without the requester host being conscious of the actual printer, (paragraph 0002 of Mochizuki). While Mochizuki discloses using the printer that issues a retrieval response packet to the host most rapidly, (paragraph 0045 of Mochizuki), Mochizuki is silent on transmitting print data to another printing apparatus if transmission of the print

data to a first apparatus failed. Thus, Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 37.

Amended independent Claims 38 and 39 are a method and storage medium corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 37. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 37, 38, and 39 are now in condition for Allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, ca office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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